

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROSA CLARK FREE MEDICAL CLINIC IN OONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of South Carolina for their continued support of the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in Oconee County, South Carolina.

For more than 50 years, BCBS of South Carolina has worked to increase access to quality health care for all South Carolina residents with the hope of providing a higher quality of life to individuals and families across the state. The BCBS of South Carolina has shown leadership in attempting to tackle the problem of preventative health care for the uninsured. Their work is a good example of how the private sector, and not the Federal Government, is better equipped to find innovative solutions to the challenges facing our Nation.

In addition to serving nearly 1 million customers and employing 12,000 South Carolinians, BCBS of South Carolina has also awarded millions of dollars in grants to local schools and medical facilities. These philanthropic efforts facilitated the hiring of health care professionals, furthering health care education, and ensuring South Carolinians have access to affordable quality health care.

One example of this giving exists in my home district, the Third District of South Carolina. In 2006, BCBS of South Carolina contributed \$100,000 to the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in Oconee County, which helps provide health care to low-income residents who have no private medical insurance and are ineligible for government insurance programs. In addition, this year they are contributing an additional \$34,040 to the facility as a measure of support for the clinic's ongoing mission of serving those in Oconee County.

I ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in applauding BCBS of South Carolina for being an active partner with the local community and for their ongoing efforts to help reduce overall health care costs for my constituents and our State. I also want to thank those at the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in my home county for all they do to improve the lives of others on a daily basis.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, as we mark the anniversary of the first ever

women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our foremothers by introducing the National Women's Rights History Project Act.

In contemporary American society, women enjoy rights to education, wages, and property ownership. However, it was only 87 years ago that women were finally granted the right to vote. Yet few Americans have any real knowledge of the long struggle to obtain the rights that we take for granted today. The National Women's Rights History Project Act will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female heroes that fought tirelessly to secure these rights.

On July 19, 1848, a group of activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Mary Ann M'Clintock convened the first women's rights convention at Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. The women's rights convention heralded the beginning of a 72-year struggle for suffrage. During the convention, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, which was drafted to mirror the Declaration of Independence and set out such radical notions like women's freedom to own property, receive an education, and file for divorce.

In 1851, a second women's rights convention was held in Akron, Ohio. It was at this convention that Sojourner Truth delivered the famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. The woman's suffrage movement, however, was not solely limited to organized conventions. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was formed.

Susan B. Anthony also established the Equal Rights Association to refute ideas that women were inferior to men and fight for a woman's right to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony and other women voted in the Presidential election, and were arrested and fined for illegal voting. At her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, Susan B. Anthony made a speech that ended with the slogan "Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God." She also campaigned for the rights of women to own property, to keep their own earnings, and to have custody of their children. I am especially proud that it was in Rochester, New York, that Susan B. Anthony fought so hard for the rights that women throughout this country rely on today. In fact, in 1900, she persuaded the University of Rochester, in my Congressional District, to admit women.

In the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women's suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch. During this era, the women's rights movement increased its momentum by organizing marches, pickets and other protests. Suffragette Alice Paul and other activists began chaining themselves to the White House fence and participating in hunger strikes to gain the attention of Congress.

The struggle for women's suffrage was not easy, and oftentimes it was made more dif-

ficult as a consequence of public misinformation and fear. Consider these remarks which, in 1912, appeared in the New York Times under the title, "The Uprising of Women":

The vote will secure to woman no new privilege that she either deserves or requires . . . Women will get the vote and play havoc with it for themselves and society, if men are not wise and firm enough and it may as well be said, masculine enough, to prevent them.

If by playing havoc, the New York Times meant becoming the single most sought after voting block in the country that often determines the outcome of elections, I guess they were right.

Because of the persistent dedication of Susan B. Anthony and other remarkable leaders, women persevered. Although Susan B. Anthony was not alive to see it, the efforts of the women's rights struggle came to fruition when the nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was finally passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920.

We have clearly come a long way in 87 years—and we still have a long way to go. We must work to continue the momentum that started in Seneca Falls, by not only ensuring that all women vote, but that they do so with an understanding of the long fight to obtain this right and with a sense of responsibility to do their part in the struggle for women's equality.

To honor these important women, the National Women's Rights History Project Act will establish a trail route linking sites significant to the struggle for women's suffrage and civil rights. It also will expand the current National Register travel itinerary Web site, "Places Where Women Made History," to include additional historic sites. Finally, this bill will require the Department of the Interior to establish a partnership-based network to offer financial and technical assistance for interpretive and educational program development of national women's rights history.

The women of this country have fought tirelessly to achieve equitable rights for our grandmothers, our mothers, ourselves, and our daughters. It is my hope that this bill will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female leaders who struggled to secure these rights.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in celebrating their accomplishments by cosponsoring the National Women's Rights History Project Act today.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, this is a very auspicious time for affordable housing advocates. For the first time in far too long, we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have significant progress on this critical issue with this new majority in this people's House. Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS have been true leaders on this issue, and I would like to recognize their efforts.

Today, we also gather to recall a past leader, who 20 years ago brought about a major increment of progress. I speak, of course, of Stewart B. McKinney and Bruce Vento, and the law that bears their name.

There are really very few, extremely few, cases of an elected official committing themselves to accompaniment of those in need the way Congressman MCKINNEY did. Indeed, the late Congressman lost his life as a result of his commitment. And while we commemorate his work and recall the circumstances of his passing, we should not lose sight of the many thousands who died in a similar way, and those who are still on the streets today, and at risk.

Many Americans have passed out of this world in lonely alleys, on top of grates, isolated from friends and family, and then been buried in unmarked plots. Indeed, as noted in the resolution commemorating McKinney-Vento, the condition of homelessness on average causes the loss of 30 years in life expectancy.

The McKinney-Vento programs have been critical in addressing this great American tragedy, and it is worth reflecting on this progress and recognizing this achievement of dedicated leadership. Across the board, McKinney-Vento has addressed the core issue of housing and deeply intertwined issues of health care access, education, job training, and reaching out to homeless youth and getting them back in school, this law has made a difference.

This is an important precedent to keep in mind as we move forward with a new agenda. After all, this was an emergency response, and while necessary and just, it was not claimed that this would put an end to homelessness, and certainly the Federal response to homelessness should not be limited to these programs.

So I look forward to working with advocates like you in this session and continually as we strive to address this problem and better this society. What we are doing, really, is increasing the decency of this country, our level of morality, our concern for our fellow man. When we conquer homelessness, which is fundamentally a problem of social isolation and abandonment, we are truly rebuilding the moral foundation of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO BRETT BOOT, BROCK GARDNER AND DANEN CLARKE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to inform the House that three of my constituents in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District have won the Honor Medal With Crossed Palms, a distinction given the Boy Scouts of America to herald heroism carried out at extreme personal risk.

These courageous young men put their lives on the line to save a friend, and one of them died in the rescue attempt.

In July of 2005, during the onslaught of Hurricane Cindy, three Eagle Scouts, Brett Boot,

Brock Gardner and Danen Clarke, were at a park in Peachtree City, Ga., with a small group of family and friends. After they helped a man dislodge his golf cart from rising waters, Danen's cousin ventured into what appeared to be still waters near a flooded road and was immediately sucked under by an unseen rip current.

Thinking that the cousin was pinned by a possible grate, the three Scouts waded in the dangerous waters to feel around for him with their feet. The cousin had actually been sucked through a 40-foot-long culvert located 5 feet below the road, which wasn't visible under the high water. The cousin was swept under the road, reappearing on the other side with severe cuts on his feet, but alive.

Danen was then caught under the ferocious current, followed by Brock, whose one leg caught on the entrance of the 4-foot-wide culvert. Brett was behind Brock in the water and was able to secure him with his arms against the pull of the current.

Danen's body was found the next morning in the stream that feeds into Lake Peachtree, caught in branches that prevented him from being swept into the lake. It is believed that Danen hit his head on a large piece of the culvert, knocking him out and causing him to drown.

The awarding of the Honor Medal With Crossed Palms is as prestigious within the scouting community as it is rare. The honor has been awarded nationally only 199 times since it was created in 1922. The Boy Scouts of America have given out only four such medals this year, and I will have the great honor of presenting these awards at a ceremony later this month to Brock and to the siblings of Danen and Brett, the latter of whom is serving his church as a missionary in South America. The medals read: "The Honor Medal With Crossed Palms presented by the Boy Scouts of America upon the Recommendation of the National Court of Honor to Bretton Boot, Danen Clarke and Brock Gardner for unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self."

The courage and selflessness of these young men testifies to their character and to the unwavering values they learned from loving families, their church and, yes, from the Boy Scouts of America. Georgia's 3rd Congressional District proudly claims them as its own. I can think of no more deserving recipients for this award. The July 28th ceremony presents an opportunity to celebrate heroism and to remember and mourn Danen Clarke's sacrifice on that fateful day.

Danen, Brett and Brock set an example for us all. They will serve as an inspiration for present and future generations of Boy Scouts in Troop 208 and throughout the Flint River Council.

SECTION 8 VOUCHER REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1851) to reform the housing choice voucher program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1851, the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act, and applaud Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS and Chairman BARNEY FRANK for their work on this important issue.

Housing, like food and health care, is a basic need, and it should be accessible to all Americans. Unfortunately, too many families find themselves without a stable and secure place to live because they cannot afford the high cost of housing in our country.

The Section 8 voucher program plays a critical role in preventing homelessness by expanding access to affordable housing. It is our nation's largest federal housing program, serving more than 2 million low-income families around our country. However, currently, the demand for Section 8 vouchers far exceeds the availability of vouchers. In my District in Minnesota, there are more than 5,000 households on the waitlist for Section 8, and the average wait time is anywhere from 5 to 7 years.

The Section 8 Voucher Reform Act expands and improves this important program and will ensure more families have access to safe, affordable housing. H.R. 1851 authorizes an additional 100,000 vouchers over the next 5 years. It also updates the formula used to allocate Section 8 voucher funds to housing agencies and simplifies the rent structure to eliminate current inefficiencies, allowing agencies to serve more families.

This legislation encourages self-sufficiency and rewards work by providing incentives, such as reducing rent disincentives for increases in earned income and offering income exemptions for adult full time student dependents. H.R. 1851 also promotes homeownership by allowing families to use a housing voucher as a down payment toward the purchase of their first home. Homeownership is the greatest source of wealth for many Americans. It strengthens our families and our communities.

Madam Speaker, every family deserves clean, stable, and affordable housing. I am proud to rise today in support of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DANLEY STRAIGHT

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and self sacrifice of Air Force COL Danley Elson Straight of Longmont, CO, for his service to both his community and to his country during World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war.

Straight was born in Greeley, CO, on October 8, 1922, the 11th of 12 children. After graduating from Greeley High School he earned his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Colorado State College of Education. He also served in the Air Force during three wars and retired with more than 30 years of service as a full colonel command pilot. During his career, "the colonel" as he is